

Charles P. Ball Mansion
Montgomery, Ala.
Montgomery Co.

HABS No. 16-612.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

District No. 16

Historic American Buildings Survey
E. Walter Burkhardt, District Officer
Ala. Polytechnic Inst., Auburn, Ala.

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17-CHARLES P. BALL MANSION
Montgomery, Montgomery County, Alabama.Ownership:

Present Owner: Mrs. Phillipa Stratford and Mrs.
Clifford Lanier.

Previous Owners: Mrs. Charles P. Ball who willed it
to her daughters.
John J. Seibels completed the house.
Mr. S. Swan who bought the house
from Mr. Seibels.
Mr. Swan who began building the house
in 1849.

Date of Erection: 1849.

Architect: Unknown.

Builder: Mr. S. Swan began the building of the house.
Mr. J. J. Seibels completed it.

Present Condition: The present condition of the house is
excellent. Modern improvements have been
added, but they have not detracted from the
original ante-bellum charm of the house.

Number of stories: Two in front and three in the rear.

Materials of Construction: The foundations of the house of
brick. The floors were originally pine but
are now hardwood. The outside wall are stucco
over brick. The inside walls are plaster.
The roof is metal with standing seams.

Other Existing Records:

A photograph appeared in The Birmingham News.
December 9, 1934, illustrating an article by
Varian Feare.

Additional Data:

"The Ball house is one of the best preserved
of the old homes. It is stucco over brick
with a definite regency influence. It is
surrounded on three sides by porches which at
the rear work up three stories. The lattice
work on these porches form a very lacy pattern
which contrast with the other details.
The main corners have quoins in very good scale
and the windows have an exceptionally fine
decorative trim both inside and out. The house
is topped with a cupola which is quite elaborate
but fairly heavy in its proportions. In my
opinion the interiors are not only the best

Additional Data continued:

preserved but the handsomest of any of the old homes of Montgomery. The door treatments, the doors, cornices and other treatments are very carefully proportioned and refined in detail. The stair which is partly curved is a most handsome example and has a very unusual newel capped with a glass ball. The proportions of the rooms themselves and the plan plainly show the pretentious social life of the owners" (Lutz).

"S. Swan was a publisher in Montgomery in 1848 through 1852. He published the Southern Gazette in which the original Frank Forrester stories appeared. Swan originally operated a lottery and after the abolishment by act of schemes of this character he continued his publishing business. One of his prints now quite much sought and published by his concern though not printed by them is the picture of the burning of the capitol December 14, 1849. In the publishing venture he was associated with A. G. Park. There extant copies of U. S. 1851 postage stamps through which has been impressed "S. Swan Montgomery, Alabama."

"John J. Seibles was appointed United States minister to Belgium in 1855. He was prominent both socially and politically and his descendents reside in Montgomery today. At the outbreak of the war between the states he was appointed Colonel and aide-de-camp to the governor."

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Architectural Merit Section:

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Date:

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